

# Press Release

To: Arkansas Media  
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CC: Governor's Office  
Date: Monday, July 5, 1999  
Re: June meeting of the Authority Board of Directors

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## Authority's Board Approves \$50,000 Loan to UAMS For Technology Development Project

The Board of Directors for the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority approved June 23 a Technology Development Program loan of \$50,000 to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). The decision was made during a special meeting of the Board of Directors so that the loan could be completed during Fiscal Year 1999.

The funded project, titled "Vaphiades-Merin VisuScreen," will attempt to develop a compact, portable, computer-based device that provides basic screening for a variety of diseases of the visual pathways. It is based upon the use of a laptop computer, virtual reality goggles and a software program. The device will be a tool to enhance the early detection of serious medical problems such as strokes, tumors and visual disorders, and due to the early detection, the researchers believe it will lower healthcare costs.

The research and development is being led by Dr. Michael Vaphiades, Lawrence Merin and Dr. Ray Hashemi, all affiliated with UAMS.

*The Technology Development Program provides royalty financing for qualified projects possessing a well developed, comprehensive project plan, and which utilizes the benefits of science and technology to provide economic and employment growth potential in Arkansas.*

<http://www.state.ar.us/asta/tdp.html>

*The Arkansas Science & Technology Authority serves as a statewide funding resource for high quality scientific and technological projects. The Authority endeavors to bring the benefits of science and technology to the people and state of Arkansas through scientific research, technology development, business innovation, and education.*

*Board Action 1, June 23, 99/Bdmtg/News/Communications Manager/e*